

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-04 USSS-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 FBO-02 OPR-01 A-01

PER-01 /061 W

----- 021655

R 230800Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1025

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ZANZIBAR 0374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI TZ

SUBJECT: MILITARY ALERT IN ZANZIBAR

1. IN FIRST SUCH OCCURRENCE SINCE OCTOBER 1973, TPDF/ZANZIBAR HELD MILITARY ALERT AND EXERCISES DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF DECEMBER 23. FIRING OF SMALL ARMS BEGAN AT 0120 LOCAL, JOINED BY HEAVIER WEAPONS INTERMITTENTLY UNTIL ABOUT 0300.

2. EXERCISE DISTURBED SLEEP BUT CAUGHT ALMOST NO ONE BY SURPRISE. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF PLANNED ALERT HAD BEEN CIRCULATING HERE FOR AT LEAST A WEEK AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WERE IN HIGHLY VISIBLE STATE OF MOVEMENT ALL DAY DEC. 22. THERE WAS NO FORMAL NOTIFICATION FROM GOZ BUT ALL AMERICANS WERE ALERTED ON BASIS

OF UNCONFIRMED REPORTS. SITUATION FROM ALL INDICATIONS BACK TO NORMAL THIS MORNING.

3. ONLY RATIONALE CONSULATE HAS RECEIVED FROM GOZ OFFICIALS RE PURPOSE OF THESE PERIODIC NIGHT-TIME SHOOTOUTS IS PREDICTABLE ONE OF MILITARY TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS. THAT IS UNDOUBTEDLY PART OF EXPLANATION BUT SUCH EXERCISES MAY ALSO SERVE PURPOSE OF REMINDING POPULACE OF GOZ'S MILITARY
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BACKING AND CAPABILITIES. SUCH REMINDERS ON LAST THREE

OCCASIONS HAVE COME JUST PRIOR TO IMPORTANT HOLIDAYS WHEN,
IT IS SURMISED, GOZ MAY CONSIDER THREAT OF DISSIDENT ACTIONS
TO BE RELATIVELY HIGHER. HOWEVER, CONSULATE HAS SEEN
NO INDICATIONS THAT GOZ IS IN ANY WAY THREATENED NOR, AS WAS
THE CASE LAST YEAR, ARE THERE ANY IDENTIFIABLE EXTERNAL IRRITANTS
SUCH AS "VOICE OF FREE ZANZIBAR" TO ACCOUNT FOR HEIGHTENED STATE
OF PREPAREDNESS.

MACFARLANE

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